

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

My Sister's Keeper is one of the most popular drama movies directed by Nick Cassavetes. In this movie, Nick Cassavetes is not only as a director but also as a screenplay with Jeremy Leven. Nick Cassavetes or Nicholas David Rowland Cassavetes was born on May 21, 1959 in New York City, New York, USA. He is an American film actor, screenwriter and filmmaker. He is the son of actress Gena Rowlands and film director John Cassavetes. Nick Cassavetes appears in the films *The Independent*, *The Astronaut's Wife*, *The face/Off*, *The Wraith*, *Life*, *Black Rose of Harlem*, *Mrs. Paker and the Vicious Circle*, *Class of 1999 II: The Substitute*, *Backstreet Dreams* and, *Body of Influence*, etc. Another *My Sister's Keeper*, he as director in the films *John Q*, *Alpha Dog*, *She's So Lovely*, *Unhook the Stars* and *The Notebook*. Cassavetes married with Isabelle Rafalovich and they have two daughters. After divorcing, he is currently married to Heather Wahlquist.

My Sister's Keeper is adapted from the novel with the same title written by Jodi Picoult. She was born on May 19, 1966 in Nesconset on Long Island. She is an American author. She currently has some 14 million copies of her books in print worldwide. She was awarded the New England Bookseller Award for fiction in 2003. She is the bestselling author of *Handle With Care*, *Change of Heart*, and *My Sister's Keeper*. This movie is produced

by Curmudgeon Films, Gran Via Productions, Mark Johnson Productions, distributed by New Line Cinema. The cinematography in this film is Caleb Deschanel. Original music is done by Aaron Zigman. Film editing is done by Jim Flynn and Alan Heim. *My Sister's Keeper* is a 2009 movie which in first release at June 26, 2009 in USA. This movie is starring Cameron Diaz as Sara Fitzgerald, Abigail Breslin as Andromeda 'Anna' Fitzgerald, Sofia Vassilieva as Kate Fitzgerald, Jason Patric as Brian Fitzgerald, Evan Ellingson as Jesse Fitzgerald, Heather Wahlquist as Aunt Kelly, and Alec Baldwin as Campbell Alexander. *My Sister's Keeper* has running time 109 minutes or 1 hour 49 minutes. In this movie consist of two languages; English and Croatian. This movie takes setting in Los Angeles, California, United States.

My Sister's Keeper tells much about parents make their daughter for helping her older sister who suffers *Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia* (APL). Kate Fitzgerald is diagnosed with *Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia* (APL), which certainly is a death mark, when she is two years. As parents, Brian and Sara Fitzgerald try to help their daughter. Sara is forced to quit her law practice to give her attention to Kate every needed, in 24 hours, 7 days. Brian become his breadwinner, he as a fireman. A dreadful day comes when the doctor informs them that they are not genetically compatible to be donor for saving Kate's life. Hopes of saving their dying daughter seem none; the doctor informs them that the only way to help secure a donor for Kate would be in the form of genetically creating a new child that could fulfilling into

Kate's medical needs. According to suggesting of that doctor, they would create a daughter via medical technology (test tube).

Anna Fitzgerald becomes a medical guinea instant for her sister. Her umbilical cord blood was used to assist recover of Kate. The condition progressively insist Anna to donor for more blood and even bone marrow, she against. One day, Kate suddenly goes into renal failure. She needs one of Anna's kidneys if she has any hopes of living on through adolescence. Anna's mother and father have forced her to be a donor blood and bone marrow to her sister. She thinks if she removes her kidney, she must be taking a care during she live. A normal childhood existence is a dream world for her. She wants to live without carefulness in her life. Despite the hellish ordeal of their young life, Anna and Kate have a resoundingly strong relationship.

More than enough of being a donor according to her parents' needs, Anna decides that she will not continue to assist them in any circumstance. Then she hires a lawyer and decides to inform against her parents for *medical emancipation*. She brings \$700 then goes to the Campbell Alexander's office, who has ads and billboards all over the city that giving confidence 90% will success when handle the case. Campbell is a lawyer who drives an extravagant car, wears famous designer clothes and has built good reputation. He willingly takes her \$700, which is a far from his usual fee, and he actually listens to and accepts Anna's request for representation. He is agreeing as Anna's lawyer because his assess moral.

My Sister's Keeper invites controversy for society. It invites pro and contra about this movie. Many people interest this movie because this movie is confronting about a choice, hard choice which is related in life. SoloHero5 from Canada noted that the movie shows the struggles and sacrifices many families come across during battles involving not only cancer but also all diseases. It was very realistic and heartbreaking. Cameron as a mother put in a horrible situation trying to do the right thing. It's very hard to let go. Besides that James Higgins from Kingsport, TN noted that *My Sister's Keeper* was so much more interesting movie. It tackles several issues. It captures everything's that happens to a family when they know someone in the family is going to die. It's touching, thought provoking and it is certainly not predictable. It makes you appreciate everything that you have in your life. (Internet Movie Database, 2009).

Nevertheless, *My Sister's Keeper* invites some contras, one of them are noted by Emma from United States said *My Sister's Keeper* toys with serious issues that will affect every audience member: life, death, family, giving, and selfishness. For example: this movie has the character's morals, Kate attempts suicide instead of trying to fight the cancer, and Anna is so selfish that she refuses to help her sister survive. While some might argue that Anna deserves to have her own body, she should love her sister enough to not let her give up on life. Besides that, noted by Ikanboy from United States said that *My Sister's Keeper* movie is an odd movie. Because plot that revolves around the complicated issue. It is creating a child who has purpose of being

the medical donor for her sister. It is more closely to being exploitive and manipulative. (Internet Movie Database, 2009).

The review Rotten Tomatoes reported that *My Sister's Keeper* a rating of 48%, based upon 132 reviews (63 fresh and 69 rotten) (Internet Movie Database, 2010). The budget of this movie is \$30 million and during this movie released it got \$95,714,875 gross revenue, which is the achievement of public for this movie (Internet Movie Database, 2009).

During *My Sister's Keeper* released, this movie got nominations and award. The nominations are nominated of ALMA Award in Actress in Film (Cameron Diaz) category, Teen Choice Award in Choice Summer Movie Star: Female (Cameron Diaz) category, and Young Artist Award in Best Performance in a Feature Film as Supporting Young Actor (Brennan Bailey) and Actress (Sofia Vassilieva) categories. *My Sister's Keeper* is the winner of Teen Choice Award as Drama Choice Summer Movie. (Internet Movie Database, 2009).

My Sister's Keeper is an interesting movie. Sara Fitzgerald in this movie wants to show the striving a mother in helping her daughter in order to still alive. Coping with the child in this movie can be raised by strong desire and work hard. There are three aspects that make this movie really interesting. The first aspect is characters which are brought by each player in *My Sister's Keeper*. Every players in this movie have own character. The characters of course supported by cast that present their best performance. Such as Kate Fitzgerald, when Kate is 2 years old; she is diagnosed with

Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia (APL). Leukemia is kind of cancer which is influencing marrow of bone and lymph tissue. It is related with white blood cells that have function for preventing disease. They are keeping body to be always health. With leukemia, the white blood cells don't work. Meanwhile, Andromeda Fitzgerald is with the specific purpose of finding a bone marrow match for Kate. They actually have same genetic and same embryos. By using Anna's umbilical cord blood is hoped can help Kate's leukemia. While Jesse Fitzgerald; he is Kate and Anna's older brother. He's gotten lost in the family. Most of their attention is focused on Kate and Anna. He loves his siblings a lot, and really wants attention from his family. Then Sara Fitzgerald is a mother to Jesse, Kate, and Anna. She graduated from law school and to be a lawyer. But finally she left it, after knowing her daughter needs her more attention. She gives her full attention to her until cutting her hair into hairless so that her daughter feels self confidence with her condition. Her husband, Brian Fitzgerald is a fireman. He tries to comprehend the desire of all his family, especially Anna when she wants her medical emancipation about her body. Another character is Campbell Alexander, is a lawyer who is handling in spectacular cases. He is Anna's lawyer. He has a service dog named Judge. From their character can be known where plot in *My Sister's Keeper* will instruct. Each character is described in the most details and they are extremely colorful when they are thinking to decide a choice, feeling happy, sad, emotion, and doubt.

The second aspect in this movie is its plot. Plot in *My Sister's Keeper* is made with the flashback scene which narrated by each character. In every scene is divided as according to point of view first person as narrator figure. Each figure in *My Sister's Keeper* has the understanding by their self regarding problems that faced by Fitzgerald's family. It can show in details from version of each character with unite the story then conclude the person in each character from the story. Because of that every character tells plot uniquely. Started from Andromeda Fitzgerald, Sara Fitzgerald, Brian Fitzgerald, Jesse Fitzgerald, Campbell Alexander, Julia, then terminated from Kate Fitzgerald. There is not a cancer movie before.

The third aspect in *My Sister's Keeper* is problem about *Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia (APL)*. *Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia (APL)* is a unique subtype of the *Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML)*, a cancer of the blood and bone marrow. It's known as Acute Progranulocytic Leukemia. In this movie, this disease is causing Brian and Sara Fitzgerald more thinking to help her daughter still alive. They make decision and focus on protect Kate's life. They agree to genetically engineer their daughter, Anna, to save Kate's life. The way of it is endangering other daughter. Sara and Brian Fitzgerald decide to test-tube Anna, who was genetically to be a perfect donor of blood, marrow and whatever else Kate might need in hopes of prolonging Kate's life. Sara Fitzgerald forces Anna to help and care with her condition. She thinks that Anna must help her sister because she is as Kate's sister. They sacrifice Anna to be a donor during her life. Until Anna realizes that she does

not want to be donor anymore. Anna refuses to do it. Anna having a notion if she donates her kidney and bone marrow for her sister, She will live with carefulness. Then she is having recourse a lawyer to help her problem to get medical emancipation of her body. They also do not care with their son, Jesse, who needs attention from them. From that, the Fitzgerald's family will get problems which they faced in *My Sister's Keeper* movie.

Coping with the children's problem is a job of parents. Besides that, another parents' job are for looking after and fulfilling all their needs. How as parents could protect their daughter or son if they get case. Like in this *My Sister's Keeper* movie, a daughter is diagnosed with *Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia (APL)*, which certainly is a death mark. As parents, always try to help their daughter until in 24 hours and 7 days in controlling. By using the theory of Alfred Adler, the writer will observe the *My Sister's Keeper* movie. The basic of Adler's concept is explained into six basic concepts. They are (1) Fictional Finalism (2) Inferiority feeling and Compensation, (3) Striving for Superiority, (4) Style of life, (5) Social Interest, and (6) Creative Power.

Considering the explanation above, the writer is interested in observing Coping with the child in *My Sister's Keeper* movie by Nick Cassavetes using Individual Psychological perspective. So, the writer constructs the title **COPING WITH THE CHILD OF ACUTE PROMYELOCYTIC LEUKEMIA IN NICK CASSAVETES' MY SISTER'S KEEPER (2009): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE.**

B. Literature Review

There are two researchers who have conducted the study of *My Sister's Keeper*. But both of them are focus on *My Sister's Keeper* novel. The first is Santa Miduk, a student of Faculty of Letters English Literature Department in University of Sumatra Utara (2010). Her research entitled, "*Analysis of Meaning of Phrasal Verbs Found in Jodi Picoult's Novel My Sister's Keeper*". The focus of this study is on meaning of Phrasal Verbs found in novel. This study uses Bungin theory and the Method of Library Research to check accurate data that available sentence of Phrasal Verb in novel *My Sister's Keeper*. Also for looking the dominant particle found entirety Phrasal Verb of it. The result is there are 132 sentences Phrasal Verb. Phrasal Verb has more than one meaning amount to 14 sentences. Also found the different meaning from a Phrasal Verb. Dominant particle is 'up' where frequency its use in Phrasal Verb is equal 48,48%.

The second is Dini Herawaty (2010), English Letters and Language Department, Humanitis and Culture Faculty, The State Islamic University Maulana Malik Ibrahim of Malang student. Her research entitled "*Psychological Dilemma of the major Characters in Jodi Picoult's My Sister's Keeper*". She uses psychoanalysis literary criticism as one method to analyze the data. The aim of the study is to describe how Anna's and Sara's id, ego and superego function in psychological dilemma they undergo in Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper* novel. The result of the data shows that the id, ego and superego of both Anna and Sara take the place in every decision they

have made. Moreover, the drive of their id and the moral compass of their superego influent them to take one action consciously of their ego in building their personality over the whole story in the novel. In addition, the conflict of the id, ego and superego also happened in their psyche. The id which is guided by pleasure principles, the ego guided by reality principle, and superego guided by morality principle have important roles in establishment of Anna's and Sara's psychological dilemma.

The differences between the writer and two previous are the theme and the perspective. Santa Miduk writes about analysis of meaning of Phrasal Verbs found in *My Sister's Keeper* novel and Dini Herawaty writes about how Anna's and Sara's id, ego and superego function in psychological dilemma by using Psychoanalysis literary criticism. While the writer means to analyze *My Sister's Keeper* movie based on Individual Psychological Perspective. The writer analyze coping with the child of *Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia* in *My Sister's Keeper* movie using Individual Psychological Perspective.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the study above, the writer proposes, "How is coping with the child of *Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia* reflected in *My Sister's Keeper* movie directed by Nick Cassavetes?"

Coping refers to the thoughts and actions we use to deal with stress. In large part, feeling stressed or not depends on whether we believe we have the coping resources to deal with the challenges facing us. (Owen Kelly, 2010)

D. Limitation of the Study

This study has wide scope and it is impossible for the writer to handle the entire problem. Therefore, the writer focuses this research in analyzing Sara Fitzgerald in coping with the child of *Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia* in Nick Cassavetes' *My Sister's Keeper* movie based on Individual Psychological Perspective.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

1. To analyze Nick Cassavetes' *My Sister's Keeper* movie based on the structural elements of the movie.
2. To describe coping behavior in dealing with the child of *Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia* in Nick Cassavetes' *My Sister's Keeper* movie based on Individual Psychological Perspective.

F. Benefits of the Study

The study of coping with the child of *Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia* in Nick Cassavetes' *My Sister's Keeper* movie has two benefits. It is understood that everything done has advantage. Different activities have

different advantage whether theoretical or practical advantages. In this study the researcher expects that the research paper has some benefit either in theoretical or practical:

1. Theoretically

The study is hoped to give a new contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *My Sister's Keeper* movie and novel.

2. Practically

The study is hoped to enrich the writer's knowledge and experience dealing with Individual Psychological Perspective also to give a deeper understanding in literary field as a reference to the other researcher in analyzing the movie into different perspective.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the writer uses a qualitative research. It is library research while data source are using literary data. It purposes to analyze the movie using individual psychological perspective. The steps to conduct this research are (1) determining the type of the study, (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining data and data source, (4) determining technique of data collection, and (5) determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *My Sister's Keeper* movie directed by Nick Cassavetes and publishing on 26 June 2009 in USA by New Line Cinema. It is analyzed by using Individual Psychological Perspective, a theory of Alfred Adler.

3. Types of the Data and the Data Source

The types of data used in the study are text and picture. In the movie, text is the form of dialogue in movie script. Meanwhile, the picture is describing overall events and the visualization of the movie. The type of data sources consists of primary data source and secondary data sources.

a. Primary Data Sources

The primary data sources of the study are *My Sister's Keeper* movie directed by Nick Cassavetes from New Line Cinema and the script movie written by Jeremy Leven.

b. Secondary Data Sources

The secondary data sources are other materials taken from books, journals, internet, and other sources that support and related to the study.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The techniques of data collections are capturing the picture and note taking, with the steps are:

- a. Watching the movie for the several times.
- b. Reading the movie script.
- c. Determining the character that will be analyzed.
- d. Taking notes of important parts in both primary and secondary data.
- e. Classifying and determining the relevant data.
- f. Taking notes from the material and some other resources related to the movie and the analysis.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis in this research paper is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and Individual Psychological Perspective.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of Coping with The Child of *Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia* in Nick Cassavetes' *My Sister's Keeper* (2009): An Individual Psychological Perspective is as follows: Chapter I is Introduction; it consists of Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method, and Research Paper Organization. Chapter II is

Underlying Theory; it consists of Notion of Individual Psychological, Adler's Major Point of Individual Psychological, Structural Elements of the Movie, and Theoretical Application. Chapter III Structural Analysis of *My Sister's Keeper* movie; (1) The Structural Elements of *My Sister's Keeper* movie; it consists Narrative Elements and Technical Elements; (2) Discussion. Chapter IV is Individual Psychological Analysis of *My Sister's Keeper* movie. It consists of fictional finalism aspect, inferiority feeling and compensation aspect, striving for superiority aspect, style of life aspect, social interest aspect, and creative power aspect. Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion.